sanctioned by BIFR, and in 27 cases the nei worth of the companies has turned positive during the pendency of reference with BIFR. Revival schemes sanctioned/approved by the Board in respect of 158 companies are under implementation.

Amendment of laws on levy of excise duty

2211. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to amend existing laws to levy excise duty on final sale price;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the additional revenue expected to be collected per annum in general and particularly from oil companies;

(c) whether Government have considered the impact of the amendments on the prices of petroleum products and rise in prices of commodities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) does not arise.

Underdeclaration of dividends

2212. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether government are aware that a tendency is developing on the part of both, public and private sector to declare dividend much below the level of earning of the company, thereby depriving shareholders of their due dividend, whereas expenditure on salaries, commission and perks of the employees continues to increase; and

(b) if so, in what manner, Department of Company Affairs/SEBI proposes to safeguard the interest of the shareholders and ensure that they.get dividend on the basis of the profit earned by^the company per share?